

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 1, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 100

Introduced by Assembly Member Jones
(Principal coauthor: Senator Correa)

January 4, 2010

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 100—Relative to teen dating violence.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 100, as amended, Jones. Teen dating violence.

This measure would recognize the month of February 2010 as “National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month” and would encourage all Californians to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities that promote awareness and prevention of the crime of teen dating violence in their communities.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Teenage dating violence is a serious and growing
2 problem throughout California; and
3 WHEREAS, Dating, domestic, and sexual violence affects
4 women regardless of their age, and teens and young women are
5 especially vulnerable; and
6 WHEREAS, Approximately one in three adolescent girls in the
7 United States is a victim of physical, emotional, or verbal abuse
8 from a dating partner, a figure that far exceeds victimization rates
9 for other types of violence affecting youth; and

1 WHEREAS, Nationwide, one in 10 high school students (9.9
2 percent) has been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by a
3 boyfriend or girlfriend; and

4 WHEREAS, More than one in four teenagers have been in a
5 relationship where a partner is verbally abusive; and

6 WHEREAS, Twenty percent of teen girls exposed to physical
7 dating violence did not attend school because the teen girls felt
8 unsafe, either at school or on the way to or from school, on one or
9 more occasions in a 30-day period; and

10 WHEREAS, In a study of California high school pupils, 7
11 percent of 11th graders indicated that they were victims of teenage
12 dating violence within the last 12 months; and

13 WHEREAS, Violent relationships during adolescence can have
14 serious ramifications for victims by putting the victims at higher
15 risk for substance abuse, eating disorders, risky sexual behavior,
16 suicide, and adult revictimization; and

17 WHEREAS, Being physically and sexually abused leaves teen
18 girls up to six times more likely to become pregnant and more than
19 twice as likely to report having a sexually transmitted disease; and

20 WHEREAS, Nearly three out of four children between 11 and
21 14 years of age (referred to hereafter as “tweens”), say that dating
22 relationships usually begin at 14 years of age or younger, and about
23 72 percent of 8th and 9th grade pupils report “dating”; and

24 WHEREAS, One out of five tweens say their friends are victims
25 of dating violence and nearly half of tweens who are in
26 relationships know friends who are verbally abused; and

27 WHEREAS, More than three times as many tweens (20 percent)
28 as parents of tweens (6 percent) admit that parents know little or
29 nothing about the dating relationships of tweens; and

30 WHEREAS, Teen dating abuse most often takes place in the
31 home of one of the partners; and

32 WHEREAS, A majority of parents surveyed believe they have
33 had a conversation with their teen about what it means to be in a
34 healthy relationship, but the majority of teens surveyed said that
35 they have not had a conversation about dating abuse with a parent
36 in the past year; and

37 WHEREAS, Digital abuse and “sexting,” the electronic
38 distribution of pictures, videos, or text messages that are sexually
39 explicit, are becoming new frontiers for teen dating abuse; and

1 WHEREAS, One out of four teens in a relationship say they
2 have been called names, harassed, or put down by their partner
3 through the use of cell phones or texting; and

4 WHEREAS, Three out of 10 young people have sent or received
5 nude pictures of other young people on their cell phone or online,
6 and 61 percent who have “sexted” report being pressured to do so
7 at least once; and

8 WHEREAS, Targets of digital abuse are almost three times as
9 likely to contemplate suicide as those who have not encountered
10 such abuse (8 percent vs. 3 percent), and targets of digital abuse
11 are nearly three times more likely to have considered dropping out
12 of school; and

13 WHEREAS, The severity of violence among intimate partners
14 has been shown to be greater in cases where the pattern of violence
15 has been established during adolescence; and

16 WHEREAS, Primary prevention programs are a key part of
17 addressing teen dating violence, and many successful community
18 examples include, but are not limited to, education, community
19 outreach, and social marketing campaigns that also understand the
20 cultural appropriateness of programs; and

21 WHEREAS, Skilled assessment and intervention programs are
22 also necessary for youth victims and abusers; and

23 WHEREAS, The establishment of a National Teen Dating
24 Violence Awareness and Prevention Month will benefit schools,
25 communities, families, and youth regardless of socioeconomic
26 status, race, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity; and *all*
27 *youth; and*

28 WHEREAS, Governmental organizations, private organizations,
29 and public officials, as well as families and youth, must work
30 together to raise awareness of the high incidence of teen dating
31 violence and to promote prevention strategies; now, therefore, be
32 it

33 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
34 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the month of
35 February 2010 as “National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and
36 Prevention Month”; and be it further

37 *Resolved*, That the Legislature supports communities in
38 empowering teens to develop healthy and violence-free
39 relationships; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages all Californians to
2 observe National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention
3 Month with appropriate programs and activities that promote
4 awareness and prevention of the crime of teen dating violence in
5 their communities; and be it further

6 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
7 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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